

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 00824 01 OF 02 191735Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 00824

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM CCD US UR UN
SUBJECT: CCD: WESTERN GROUP MEETING, JANUARY 18, 1978

1. SUMMARY: WESTERN GROUP MET JANUARY 18 TO DISCUSS
ISSUES RELATED TO UPCOMING 1978 SPRING SESSION OF THE
CCD. FRG REP BRIEFED GROUP ON EVENTS OF COPENHAGEN
MEETING OF THE EC-9 AND BRUSSELS NATO DISARMAMENT
EXPERTS MEETING ON SSOD. US REP BRIEFED GROUP ON STATUS
OF NEGOTIATIONS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS, RADIOLOGICAL WEA-
PONS, AND COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN. GROUP BRIEFLY DIS-
CUSSED PREPARATIONS FOR OPENING OF CCD (JANUARY 31) AND
EXCHANGED VIEWS ON COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM.
END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 00824 01 OF 02 191735Z

2. THE FIRST MEETING IN 1978 OF THE WESTERN GROUP
(CANADA, FRG, ITALY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, UK, US) OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (CCD) WAS
HELD MORNING, JANUARY 18. UK REP (AMBASSADOR ASHE) WAS
IN THE CHAIR.

3. FRG REP (SCHLAICH) BRIEFED GROUP ON THE EVENTS OF

THE RECENT MEETING OF EC-9 IN COPENHAGEN AND THE JANUARY 17 NATO EXPERTS MEETING IN BRUSSELS. BOTH MEETINGS CONCENTRATED ON THE UPCOMING UN SPECIAL SESSION DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT (SSOD). HE SAID UK HAD PRESENTED A DRAFT PROGRAM OF ACTION, WHICH WAS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF BEING REVISED, DEALING WITH ISSUES UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE CCD (I.E., COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB), CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW), AND RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (RW)) AND OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCD (I.E., SALT, REGIONAL MEASURES LIKE MBFR, AND ON-GOING MEASURES LIKE MILITARY EXPENDITURES). HE SAID THE PROGRAM ALSO ENCOURAGES THE CCD TO CONTINUE WORKING ON ITS COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM (CNP) AND INCLUDES A SECTION ON WEAPONS TRANSFERS. SCHLAICH SAID THAT, IN DISCUSSING THE DISARMAMENT MECHANISM, THE UK HAD PROPOSED ENLARGING THE CCD TO 38 MEMBERS SO AS TO INCLUDE THE PRC AND GREATER NON-ALIGNED REPRESENTATION; HOWEVER, MOST OF THE NINE AGREED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE A GOOD IDEA BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE PRESSURE TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION ALONG ECOSOC LINE (I.E., 54 COUNTRIES) AND IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO LIMIT THE INCREASE TO ONLY 7 SEATS ONCE CCD MEMBERSHIP WAS OPENED UP. (FYI: RE FRENCH PARTICIPATION, SCHLAICH SAID FRENCH REP HAD TOLD HIM THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT TAKE ITS SEAT IN CCD NOW EVEN IF CO-CHAIRMANSHIP WERE DROPPED, BUT INDICATED THAT THIS POSITION COULD BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE FOLLOWING FRENCH ELECTIONS. END FYI.) SCHLAICH
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 00824 01 OF 02 191735Z

SAID THAT NATO MEETING HAD DEALT WITH MOST OF THE SAME ITEMS BUT THAT CANADA HAD INTRODUCED PAPERS ON SECURITY GUARANTEES AND CUT-OFF AND TRANSFER.

4. US REP (AMBASSADOR FISHER) BRIEFED GROUP ON STATUS OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) NEGOTIATIONS SAYING THAT THE TWO SIDES WERE NO CLOSER TO AGREEMENT THAN THEY HAD BEEN AT THE END OF ROUND SIX AND THAT THE SOVIET DEL HAD, IN FACT, "REGRESSED" ON SOME POINTS. HE LISTED THE MAIN DIFFERENCES IN POSITIONS AS (A) FORM OF JOINT INITIATIVE (US WANTS TO PRESENT "KEY ELEMENTS", USSR WANTS TO PRESENT DRAFT CONVENTION); (B) DECLARATION/DESTRUCTION OF STOCKS AND DISPOSITION OF FACILITIES; (C) ADHERENCE OF SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE; AND (D) VERIFICATION OF STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION AND DISPOSITION OF FACILITIES. FISHER SAID THAT WE WOULD NOT HAVE AN INITIATIVE READY FOR THE OPENING OF THE CCD AND PROBABLY NOT EVEN BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE SSOD. WHEN ASKED IF A CCD WORKING GROUP ON CW COULD BE SET UP THIS SESSION TO BEGIN WORK ON SOME PARTIAL INITIATIVE, PERHAPS DEALING WITH SCOPE, FISHER REPLIED THAT HE BELIEVED CONSIDERATION OF THIS POSSIBILITY WAS A BIT PREMATURE.

ITALIAN REP (MARENO) EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RESULTS OF US CONSULTATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM PRIVATE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY. FISHER SAID THESE HAD GONE WELL AND THAT PRIVATE INDUSTRY'S MAJOR CONCERN CENTERED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF MANDATORY INTERNATIONAL ON-SITE INSPECTIONS AND ADDITIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. HE STATED THAT PRIVATE INDUSTRY PREFERRED SOVIET POSITION THAT THE CHALLENGED STATE WOULD DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT AN ON-SITE INSPECTION WOULD OCCUR, A DECISION ABOUT WHICH PRIVATE INDUSTRY WOULD HAVE A VOICE. JAPANESE REP (OGISO) ASKED IF US WOULD CONSULT WITH SOVIET DEL ABOUT PRESENTING AN INTERIM REPORT ON PROGRESS IN THE CW BILATERALS TO THE CCD

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 00824 02 OF 02 191740Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 00824

DURING THE SPRING SESSION. FISHER INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THE SOVIET DEL.

5. FISHER INFORMED GROUP THAT SOVIET DEL HAD BROACHED SUBJECT OF RECONVENING FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (RW). HE SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED SOVIET REP IF USSR WAS PREPARED TO DROP INCLUSION OF RB/ER WEAPONS (NEUTRON BOMB) ISSUE IN CONTEXT OF RW; SOVIET REP SAID THAT IT COULD BE DISCUSSED IN COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

FISHER STATED THAT, IN LIGHT OF SOVIET POSITION, US WOULD BE PREPARED TO HEAR WHAT SOVIET DEL HAD TO SAY BUT COULD NOT AGREE TO RECONVENE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL IT WAS CLEAR THE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE WAS NOT INCLUDED UNDER RW RUBRIC.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 00824 02 OF 02 191740Z

6. FISHER ALSO BRIEFED GROUP ON STATUS OF TRILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB). HE QUOTED WARNKE STATEMENT THAT HE (WARNKE) HOPED THE THREE SIDES WOULD BE ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT AND PRESENT THEIR INITIATIVE TO THE CCD WITHIN THE "NEXT FEW MONTHS." HE SAID THAT THE ISSUES WHICH REMAINED TO BE RESOLVED WERE: (A) INITIAL DURATION OF TREATY AND WITHDRAWAL PROVISIONS; (B) MODALITIES FOR SUSPENDING PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS; AND (C) VERIFICATION. NETHERLANDS REP (MEERBERG) ASKED HOW CTB WOULD AFFECT SEISMIC EXPERTS GROUP RECOMMENDATION FOR A ONE AND A HALF YEAR TRIAL RUN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC DATA EXCHANGE NETWORK. FISHER SAID THAT WHILE THE US WOULD, OF COURSE, CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF "TRIAL RUN" PRIOR TO TABLING TRILATERAL CTB INITIATIVE IN CCD, HIS INSTRUCTIONS, TO DATE, DEALT ONLY WITH ACCEPTING THE FINAL REPORT OF THE SEISMIC EXPERTS GROUP. JAPANESE REP (OGISO) ASKED IF THE US WOULD CONSIDER HAVING THE SEISMIC EXPERTS GROUP CONTINUE THEIR WORK ONCE THEIR FINAL REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE CCD. FISHER STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW US WOULD ACT ON THIS, BUT THAT HE WOULD INFORM WASHINGTON.

7. REGARDING POSTPONEMENT OF THE OPENING OF THE CCD (PROPOSED INITIALLY BY ARGENTINE CCD REP (DE ROZA)), THE GROUP AGREED THAT CCD OPENING SHOULD NOT BE POSTPONED BECAUSE FIFTH PREP COM FOR SSOD MIGHT NECESSITATE CLOSING CCD SPRING SESSION EARLY. REGARDING PLANS FOR WORK ON CCD COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM, ITALIAN REP SAID THAT ITALY WOULD TABLE A WORKING PAPER IN CCD VERY EARLY IN THE SESSION. FURTHER DISCUSSION OF CNP ISSUE WAS DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT MEETING OF WESTERN GROUP.

8. NEXT MEETING OF THE WESTERN GROUP WILL BE JANUARY 25.
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 00824 02 OF 02 191740Z

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